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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Ninth (pre-sessional) executive session
Geneva, 17 March 1995
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Provisional agenda and annotations for the ninth (pre-sessional) executive session of the Board

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA*

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Terms of reference of the Commission on International Investment and Transnational Corporations

3. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

   (a) Treatment of new States members of UNCTAD for purposes of elections;

   (b) Membership of the Trade and Development Board

   (c) Membership of the Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Working Groups

4. Designation of the President of the forty-second session of the Board

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* As approved by the Board at its 852nd plenary meeting on 30 September 1994, and completed by the Consultations of the Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD on 15 February 1995.

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5. Reports and activities of the subsidiary bodies of the Board: matters requiring action

6. Other business

7. Report of the ninth (pre-sessional) executive session of the Board.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. The rules of procedure of the Board are contained in TD/B/16/Rev.4 and Corr.1.

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

2. The provisional agenda for the ninth (pre-sessional) executive session is reproduced in section I above. In approving the provisional agenda, at its 852nd plenary meeting on 30 September 1994, the Board requested the Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD to adjust and complete it in the light of developments. Further to General Assembly resolution 49/130, of 19 December 1994, an additional item "Terms of reference of the Commission on International Investment and Transnational Corporations" has been included.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(9)/1	Provisional agenda and annotations for the ninth (pre-sessional) executive session of the Trade and Development Board

Item 2: Terms of reference of the Commission on International Investment and Transnational Corporations

3. In its resolution 49/130, of 19 December 1994, the General Assembly decided that the Commission on Transnational Corporations should become a Commission of the Trade and Development Board and be renamed the Commission on International Investment and Transnational Corporations; and that the next session of the Commission should be held at Geneva in the first half of 1995. Provision has been made in the calendar of UNCTAD meetings for the session to be held from 24 to 28 April 1995.

4. In the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Trade and Development Board to address urgently the question of orienting the programme of work of the new Commission on the basis of recommendations made by the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its twentieth session in 1994. In view of the fact that the Commission on Transnational Corporations was a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, with its own terms of reference, the need arises for terms of reference for the new Commission to be adopted urgently by the Board before the Commission next meets. The secretariat will circulate a draft decision on the terms of reference for adoption by the Board.

5. In connection with this item, it will have been noted that provision has been made in the calendar of meetings for the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (a subsidiary body of the former Commission on Transnational Corporations and thus automatically a subsidiary body of the new Commission) to hold its thirteenth session from 13 to 17 March 1994. The holding of the Intergovernmental Working Group's session was not contingent on the adoption of the terms of reference for the new Commission.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(9)/L.1	Terms of reference of the Commission on International Investment and Transnational Corporations Draft decision

Item 3: Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters

(a) Treatment of new States members of UNCTAD for purposes of elections

6. By resolution 49/63, of 15 December 1994, the General Assembly admitted the Republic of Palau to membership in the United Nations. Under the provisions of paragraph 1 of Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), members of the United Nations are automatically members of UNCTAD. With the addition of the Republic of Palau, UNCTAD's membership now stands at 188 and is as reflected in TD/B/41(2)/INF.1.

Documentation

TD/B/41(2)/INF.1 (pages 1-2)	Membership of UNCTAD

(b) Membership of the Trade and Development Board

7. The membership of the Board stands at 138, and is as reflected in TD/B/41(2)/INF.1.

Documentation

TD/B/41(2)/INF.1 (pages 3-4)	Membership of the Trade and Development Board

(c) Membership of the Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Working Groups

8. The revised membership of the four Standing Committees and the membership of the three new Ad Hoc Working Groups established pursuant to paragraph 20 of conclusions and decisions 415(XL), adopted by the Board on 27 May 1994, is reflected in TD/B/41(2)/INF.2.

Documentation

TD/B/41(2)/INF.2	Membership of the Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Working Groups

Item 4: Designation of the President of the forty-second session of the Board

9. By decision 360(XXXV), of 5 October 1988, the Board reaffirmed its decision 338 (XXXIII), of 9 September 1986, whereby it agreed that it would be desirable for the Board to identify, before the end of each regular session, the person concerned to participate in an advisory capacity in the preparatory work for the regular session at which he would serve as President.

10. In accordance with the cycle for the rotation of the Office of President of the Board (contained in annex I to the rules of procedure), the President at the forty-second session shall be a representative of one of the States in List B.

No documentation

Item 5: Reports and activities of the subsidiary bodies of the Board: matters requiring action

(a) Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices, thirteenth session (24-28 October 1994)

11. The thirteenth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices was held from 24 to 28 October 1994.

12. The Board is invited to take note of the report of the Intergovernmental Group on its thirteenth session and to endorse the agreed conclusions in annex I thereto. The Board is also informed of the decision of the Intergovernmental Group that the fourteenth session of the Group (6-10 March 1995) will act as the preparatory body for the third United Nations Conference to Review all Aspects of the Set (13-24 November 1995).

Documentation

TD/B/41(2)/2 -TD/B/RBP/103	Report of the Intergovernmental Group on Restrictive Business Practices, thirteenth session

(b) Standing Committee on Commodities, third session (31 October-4 November 1994)

13. The Standing Committee on Commodities devoted its third session to analysing ways and means to improve market opportunities for commodities in the medium term, with emphasis on examination of best ways of achieving diversification, taking into account competitiveness, market trends and opportunities as well as to identifying means by which the competitiveness of natural products with environmental advantages could be improved.

14. The attention of the Board is drawn to annex I to the report on the session, containing agreed conclusions adopted by the Standing Committee, which identify areas for further analysis and research to be undertaken by the secretariat. The provisional agenda for the fourth session, as approved by the Standing Committee, is reproduced in annex II.

15. The Board may wish to take note of the report of the Standing Committee on its third session and endorse the agreed conclusions contained in annex I thereto.

Documentation

TD/B/41(2)/3 -TD/B/CN.1/26	Report of the Standing Committee on Commodities, third session

(c) Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, second session (14-18 November 1994)

16. At its second session (14-18 November 1994), the Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries considered the question of strengthening subregional and regional integration and fostering interregional cooperation, as well as promotion and expansion of trade among developing countries; and reviewed major developments in the area of economic cooperation among developing countries, including regular consultations and technical support, assistance and skill development. The agreed conclusions adopted by the Committee are contained in annex I to the report on the session.

17. The Committee also considered the outcome of a meeting of intergovernmental experts on ECDC, convened by the Standing Committee at its first session, and which met from 27 June to 1 July 1994. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, which are reproduced in the appendix to annex I.

18. The provisional agenda which the Committee approved for its third session is contained in annex II.

19. The Board may wish to take note of the report of the Standing Committee on its second session, and endorse the agreed conclusions contained in annex I, as well as the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts appended to annex I.

Documentation

TD/B/41(2)/7- TD/B/CN.3/11	Report of the Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, second session

(d) Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade, Environment and Development, first session (28 November - 2 December 1994)

20. At its first session the Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade, Environment and Development considered aspects of international cooperation on eco-labelling and eco-certification programmes; as well as market opportunities for "environmentally friendly" products. The Chairman's summary of discussions is contained in annex II to the report on the session.

21. The provisional agenda approved by the Ad Hoc Working Group for its second session is reproduced in annex I.

22. The Board may wish to take note of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on its first session, and of the Chairman's summary of discussions contained in annex II.

Documentation

TD/B/41(2)/5- TD/B/WG.6/3	Report on the Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade, Environment and Development, first session

(e) Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget, twenty-fourth session (12-14 December 1994)

23. At its twenty-fourth session (12-14 December 1994), the Working Party, inter alia, reviewed the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing. The agreed conclusions adopted by the Working Party under this item are contained in annex I to the report on the session.

24. The provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session is reproduced in annex II.

25. Attention is drawn to paragraph 18 of the report, reflecting the oral presentation made under item 4 (Report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on the work of the secretariat on programme evaluation); and paragraph 19, reflecting the oral report presented under item 5 (Report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on economies as well as on the redeployment of resources).

26. The Board may wish to take note of the report of the Working Party on its twenty-fourth session, and to endorse the agreed conclusions on technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing, contained in annex I thereto.

Documentation

TD/B/41(2)/11 -TD/B/WP/88	Report of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget, twenty-fourth session

Item 6: Other business

Item 7: Report of the ninth (pre-sessional) executive session of the Board

27. In accordance with past practice, the Board may wish to authorize the Rapporteur, under the authority of the President, to prepare the report of the Board on its ninth (pre-sessional) executive session.